



WHAT BIOLOGY CLASS SHOULD I TAKE NEXT YEAR?



BIOLOGY I

VS.

BIOLOGY I PREAP

The Biology I student...

- most likely took Science 8 in 8th grade and is on-level in his/her math course.
- requires a more structured classroom.
- prefers word banks and multiple choice on tests and quizzes.

STUDENT PROFILE

The Biology I preAP student...

- took middle school IPC in 8th grade or got an A in 8th grade science and an advanced math course (at least Algebra I in 8th grade).
- has excellent self-management and study skills.
- wants to be challenged with higher-level test and quiz questions.
- is interested in a career in STEM.

Daily 10%
Labs 25%
Quizzes 15%
Tests 50%

GRADE CATEGORIES

Daily 5%
Labs/Quizzes 35%
Tests 60%

Which organelle is the site of photosynthesis in eukaryotes?

- A.) mitochondrion
- B.) chloroplast
- C.) ribosome
- D.) smooth endoplasmic reticulum

SAMPLE TEST QUESTION

What would happen if a hole were punctured in the thylakoid membrane of a chloroplast, allowing H⁺ ions to escape into the stroma?

- A.) The phospholipid bilayer of the thylakoid membrane would break apart.
- B.) H⁺ ions would stop diffusing through ATP synthase and stop the production of ATP.
- C.) Carbon dioxide would convert to oxygen, which would be released into the atmosphere.
- D.) Electrons would build up and cause proteins to pump excess H⁺ ions across the thylakoid membrane.

- A FEW WORDS FROM THE WESTLAKE HS BIOLOGY TEACHERS -

- **preAP Biology is NOT a prerequisite for AP Biology.** Any student who has passed Biology I or Biology I preAP may take AP Biology. Your course placement in 9th grade will not affect whether you can take AP Biology later on in high school.
- **Science 8 preAP (IPC) is not a prerequisite for preAP Biology, but it is *strongly* recommended.** The first four units in preAP Biology require a basic understanding of chemistry and students who have not taken IPC and/or are on-level in math traditionally find the first four units in preAP Biology to be very challenging.
- **Do NOT take preAP Biology just for the GPA multiplier.** In our experience, students who are overloaded with preAP and AP courses during freshmen year typically struggle in the first semester and often we see that the multiplier does not work to the student's advantage.



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